

# TESTIMONY BEFORE SUPERVISORS IN INVESTIGATION OF COUNTY SHERIFF

**Two Days Information Cleaned By Special Committee of Supervisors—Isoi Tells His Story of His Dealings With Sheriff's Office—Presents He Made And Other Transactions**

**TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY AND PROCEEDINGS IN RE INVESTIGATION OF C. P. IAUKEA, SHERIFF OF THE COUNTY OF OAHU.**

Saturday, Aug. 8, 1908.  
Testimony of Isoi.

**MR. CATHCART.**

Question. What is your name?

Answer. Kikichi Isoi.

Q. Where do you live? A. At Iwilei.

Q. How long have you lived there?

A. About three years and eight months.

Q. You lease property over there—house and lot? A. Yes.

Q. And sub-lease them to Japanese women? A. Yes.

Q. It is Iwilei where you reside, and generally speaking it is that part of Iwilei that has been kept by women for the purpose of prostitution? A. Yes.

Q. We have some other people who are not prostitutes, but most of them are prostitutes.

Q. That part of Iwilei where prostitution has been segregated, is it not?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know Sheriff Iaukea? A. I do.

Q. How long have you known him?

A. I knew him for the last year and a half.

Q. Have you known him that long personally to talk with him? A. I had first conversation with the Sheriff on the 7th of April of this year, prior to that date I had no conversation with him.

Q. And where was it that you first had the conversation with him on the 7th of this year? A. At my house near the verandah.

Q. Who was present besides yourself and the Sheriff? A. Chief Taylor and Special Officer Townsend were there.

Q. Was that in the day time or in the night time? A. During night.

Q. What did the Sheriff say to you there, if anything? A. Yes, the Sheriff told me then that the stockade must be closed on the same evening, and he told me to tell the women to that effect.

Q. Was that all that he said to you that night? A. That was all.

Q. How did he say it to you, in English, or through Townsend the Japanese interpreter? A. He spoke in English and Townsend interpreted.

Q. What did you say to the Sheriff on that occasion? A. I did not say anything.

**Christmas Presents.**

Q. Before this time, you never had any conversation with the Sheriff—had you ever met him before? A. Prior to that time I knew him only by sight. I neither had any conversation nor saw him anywhere personally.

Q. Had you made any presents to him of any kind before this? A. I made a present to him January last year—not January, but in December at Christmas time.

Q. What was the present? A. Four chairs.

Q. What kind of chairs? A. Ordinary chairs, but they were valuable kind; each chair cost \$7.00.

Q. Tell us how you made that present, how you delivered it? A. I went up there to Sheriff's house with Townsend, but the Sheriff was absent at that time. I saw Mrs. Iaukea and through Townsend I made a present of the chairs and said that was my Christmas present to the Sheriff.

Q. Did you state who you were? A. Townsend told Mrs. Iaukea who I was. Townsend put down my name on a slip of paper in English and I left there.

**Cigars to Taylor.**

Q. Did you make any other presents to the Police Officers at that time? A. I made a present of cigars to Mr. Taylor.

Q. How many cigars? A. I do not remember the number of boxes, but I know the value; I paid \$20.00 for them.

**MR. ARCHER.**

Q. Manila cigars? A. I do not know what kind they were, I bought it at Gumat-Eakin's Cigar Store, at the time I bought about \$40.00 worth of cigars.

**MR. CATHCART.**

Q. And \$20.00 worth of it went to Taylor? A. Yes, made a present of it at the office of the Police Station.

Q. By you? A. Yes, I went up there accompanied by Townsend.

Q. Is that all the Christmas presents you made to the Police officers? A. Yes, that is all.

**\$100 Loan.**

Q. Now after the 7th day of April, when did you have any money transactions with the Sheriff, if you did have any? A. On 1st of last May I made a loan of \$100.00 to the Sheriff.

Q. Just state how that loan was made—describe how it was made? A. About 4 o'clock in the afternoon of May 1st, Mr. Townsend came to my house and asked a loan of \$100.00, and when I asked him who that money was for he said it was for the Sheriff, the Sheriff was in a financial straits and wanted to get the loan of \$100.00, and I said alright I will loan the money, but I wanted a note for it, then Townsend told me he would go and get it. Well, Townsend came back with a note from the Sheriff and I asked him to sign his name to it, to be witness. I gave him the \$100.00.

Q. How long was the note to run, do you remember. A. One month.

Q. Where is that note now, have you got it? A. I gave it back to the Sheriff on June 2nd last.

Q. He paid it then on June 2nd. A. No; money was not paid on that date.

Q. How did you happen to give it back to the Sheriff on June 2nd.

A. In this way, Townsend sent a back to my house and requested me to come over to his house, when I went to his house, he told me—he asked if I had the Sheriff's note in my possession and I said "Yes," then Townsend asked me to have that substituted for the one of his own note and I agreed.

Q. That is Townsend asked you to give back the Sheriff's note and take in its place a note signed by Townsend. A. Yes. That is it was to be made such a way that Sheriff give Townsend a note for \$100.00 and on the part of Townsend—it was this way, the Sheriff was to give a note to Townsend for \$100.00, and Townsend was to pass that same note to Isoi.

Q. And then you were to surrender the note which the Sheriff had given to you, and which was payable to you? A. Yes.

Q. So that the note in your possession for the \$100.00 would be a note from the Sheriff to Townsend instead of one from the Sheriff to you? A. Yes.

Q. When Townsend told you this at his house, what then occurred? A. Well I surrendered Sheriff Iaukea's note and took the other note in its place.

Q. Did you have the note of Iaukea to you in your possession there at Townsend's house? A. Yes.

Q. And did Townsend have the substituted note from the Sheriff to Townsend at the time. A. No, he did not have it ready then, but he said he would get it next day, and I surrendered the Sheriff's note then upon the promise of Townsend that he would bring it to me the next day.

Q. He did give the substituted note the next day, did he? A. Yes.

Q. Now you say this was in the night time of the 2nd day of June, what time of the night was it? A. It was about midnight about 12 o'clock.

Q. Up to the time that Townsend sent a back for you that night for you to come to his house, had you any talk with him or Iaukea in reference to this note? A. I did not hear anything prior to that time.

Q. How was it that you happened to have the Sheriff's note in your pocket when you went to Townsend's house? A. That is about the time that the note expired. The term expired so I thought I better take the note.

Q. This substituted note, where is that now? A. When the money was paid later I gave back the note to Townsend.

Q. When was the money paid? A. About June 7th or 8th, I am not quite sure.

**MR. ARCHER.**

Q. Is there any interest in the note mentioned? A. No interest was mentioned.

Q. What is the idea of changing that note from Iaukea to Townsend and then from Townsend to Isoi? A. Townsend explained the matter in this way, that the fact of \$100.00 loan became known to Chief Taylor and Sheriff Iaukea did not like it so he wanted to have the matter covered up by substituting the old note with the new one, which had no name of mine.

**MR. CATHCART.**

Q. You say that Townsend told you Taylor had found out about the loan and the note, had you told Taylor? A. No.

Q. You know how Taylor had found out? A. I do not know how he found out.

Q. The substituted note was paid on June 7th or 8th, where was it paid? A. I sent my clerk with the note and he came back with the money, so I do not know where it was paid.

Q. Where did you send him to? A. I sent him to the Police Station because Townsend telephoned over from there.

Q. Townsend you say telephoned over to you? A. Yes, Townsend telephoned over to the back stand.

Q. That is, the telephone in Iwilei at the back stand? A. Yes.

Q. He telephoned over to you for you to send the note over that he wanted to pay it? A. Yes, that was it.

Q. Now you then did not see the Sheriff personally at any time about this loan up to the time of its payment? A. No, I never had any conversation with the Sheriff directly, always through Townsend as a go-between.

Q. You saw the Sheriff personally on the night of the 7th of April of this year, when did you see him personally again to have a talk with him? A. I next saw the Sheriff about the 18th or 20th of May.

Q. Where was it you saw him on the 18th or 20th of May? At. At his office, Police Station.

Q. Who was present besides yourself and the Sheriff, if anybody? A. Townsend.

Q. The conversation you had there was through Townsend as interpreter, is that right? A. Yes.

Q. What conversation took place between you and the Sheriff on that occasion? A. I went up to ask the Sheriff if there was an prospect of re-opening Iwilei.

**Talk With Sheriff.**

Q. State as well as you can remember, what he said and what you said? A. The Sheriff said he, himself, was in favor of keeping Iwilei open, but there was a law which forbids it, so he could not do otherwise.

**Laborers Don't Count.**

Q. Anything else? A. Nothing more was said at the first interview, but I went up to see him for the same purpose on the 25th of May. Sheriff told me that he personally wanted Iwilei open, but there was a missionary

movement which wanted the place closed and he could not do anything against the missionary, except by the petition of prominent citizens. I asked him if he was not going to open the place with that petition signed by a thousand names, he said that petition did not count anything because it was signed by all laborers.

Q. That is, the petition, is it not, that was signed by Hawaiians? A. So I heard.

Q. Was there anything more on that second conversation on the 25th of May? A. I asked him if they were not some prominent citizens who had made a petition in a paper for opening Iwilei, Sheriff said there was none. He said further that if members of either the Grand Jury or the Board of Supervisors would sign the petition then he would open Iwilei.

Q. When this money was loaned, \$100, was Iwilei closed down? A. Yes, certainly after Iwilei was closed, Iwilei was closed about the 7th of April and the note was made May 1st.

Q. And was it closed all up to the time that you went to see the Sheriff on the 25th of May, the last conversation you talked about? A. Yes, Iwilei was closed right along until about June 15th.

**MR. FERN.**

Q. Whether all these presents to Iaukea or to Taylor and with this \$100.00 that Iaukea borrowed from Iaukea or to Townsend, was it a bribe? A. I did not mean to make any bribe to these officials, but I knew it was the custom among the white people to make presents.

**MR. CATHCART.**

Q. And the loan of \$100 was not intended by you as a bribe, was it? A. I did not mean at all to make a bribe, or had no such meaning. I made the loan at the request of the Sheriff.

12 M. The committee adjourns until 10 a. m. Monday.

Monday, August 10, 1908.

**Isoi Recalled.**

Examination by Mr. Milverton. Interpreted by Mr. Sheba.

**MR. ISOI.**

I wish to add something more to the statement which I made day before yesterday. On the night of the 7th of April when the Sheriff came to my house he said another thing that the prostitutes would be arrested anywhere, if found. (I did not say that Saturday, so I wanted to put it in.) The first time I saw Sheriff Iaukea was about April 15th—was on April 15th.

**MR. MILVERTON.**

Q. Not on the 7th? A. On the 7th, the Sheriff came to my house, but the first time I went to his office was on the 15th of April.

**MR. KEALOHA.**

Q. Did you state on the 7th of April, 1908, that was the first conversation you had with the Sheriff? A. Yes, that was the first time I had a conversation with him.

**MR. MILVERTON.**

Q. And that was the time he came up to Iwilei? A. Yes, he came to my house accompanied by Mr. Taylor and Mr. Townsend.

Q. How long did that conversation last there? A. Very short time.

Q. At that time, did Townsend introduce you to the Sheriff? A. Yes.

Q. What did he say in introducing you? A. Why he pointed to the Sheriff and told me he was the Sheriff.

Q. And what did you tell the Sheriff? A. Well, I didn't say anything.

Q. Did Townsend tell the Sheriff who you were—what your name was? A. Townsend said to Sheriff, pointing to me, this Isoi and I heard Mr. Taylor also tell it to the Sheriff.

Q. About how long did that meeting last—about how many minutes? A. Only about five minutes.

Q. To that time Iwilei had been running? A. Yes, up to that night.

Q. You said in your examination on Saturday it was closed up to about June 15th? A. It reopened about that time—never been opened until that time.

Q. And on June 15th it did re-open? A. Women themselves opened the place at that time.

Q. What occurred and what was the cause of the re-opening at that time? A. Well, they opened the place on their own account—I don't know why they did it; prior to that time they came and asked me to see what I could do in regard to the re-opening of the place, but I told them I could not do anything.

Q. How much property do you control over there? A. I owned at the time six houses containing 48 rooms altogether, but I do not own it now.

Q. When did you cease to own that property? A. I sold the lease to others on July 15th.

**MR. ARCHER.**

Q. The whole? A. Yes.

**MR. MILVERTON.**

Q. So you have no interest in Iwilei now? A. I have none since that date.

Q. But what arrangement did you have with the women, did you simply lease the rooms out for so much a month? A. That is all I get, the rent from the women.

Q. I did not get your first name the other day? A. Kikichi Isoi.

Q. That is the only name you have? A. Yes, although sometimes I am called Some, but I was adopted to the family of Isoi later on, and sometimes I am called Some and sometimes Isoi.

**Only One Isoi.**

Q. Do you know whether there is any other Isoi in town here, in Honolulu? A. Never have. Isoi is very well known Japanese names are very common, for instance Moto and Yamamoto they are very common among Japanese—I think there is no other Isoi in Honolulu, but myself.

Q. When was the last time you had any conversation with the Sheriff in reference to that note—that is with Townsend or with the Sheriff? A. About June 7th.

Q. What occurred then? A. Well I didn't have the conversation with

either the Sheriff or Townsend on that date, I made a mistake, it happened in this way, I went to Townsend's house either on the 7th or 8th or 9th of June—about that time—with the note, but Townsend was absent and Mrs. Townsend asked me if I had that note and she said Townsend left word with her to exchange the note with the cash, which was done afterwards.

Q. That was the last transaction in regard to that note? A. Yes, that was the last transaction.

Q. Now you say you omitted to speak of a conversation you had at the Sheriff's office on April 15th, state what occurred at that time? A. On that day when I saw the Sheriff I asked him if I could not do something to re-open Iwilei, and the Sheriff said the missionaries are against it and they are doing everything to prevent the re-opening of Iwilei, and as it is against the law of the Territory he could not do it very well, although he, himself, favored its opening. He told me that there were two Japanese missionaries who came with white missionaries.

Q. This conversation occurred at the Sheriff's office did it, or at his house? A. No, it did not take place at the Sheriff's office but in Chief Taylor's office. There were present the Sheriff, Townsend and myself.

Q. And what time of the day was it you went there? A. I think it was between 10:30 and 11 in the morning.

Q. When you went there did the Sheriff know who you were? A. Naturally he ought to have known me because I met him on the night of the 7th.

Q. Did he say anything which led you to believe that he did know you? A. Of course he knew me by the way he talked to me and the conversation we had, why I could tell he knew me alright.

Q. Between the time that he first came down to Iwilei, which was April 7th, and the time when you signed the note, which was May 1st, did you have any conversation with the Sheriff in regard to that note? A. No, that was all.

Q. After this note transaction was closed up about the 8th of June, when did you next see the Sheriff? A. Sometime after June 20th I don't remember which it was, between June 20th and the last day of the month I saw the Sheriff twice—once on Saturday and once on Sunday.

**Sheriff Wanted to Know.**

Q. Which came first the Saturday interview or Sunday? A. On that Saturday a back was sent to me from the Station—Townsend sent the back over to my house, telling me that the Sheriff wanted to see me; he wanted to have a conversation with me—the Sheriff asked me how the matter of \$100.00 loan leaked out, and I told him that my wife Chise showed it to Mr. Breckons. Then the Sheriff asked me how it happened, that Chise showed it to Mr. Breckons and I didn't have any explanation to make, so I said to him by way of excuse that I was on good terms with Mr. Breckons and one day Mr. Breckons called on us and asked Chise how she was getting along and Chise thought to tell the truth to Mr. Breckons she said we were doing alright and then she showed the check to Mr. Breckons. That was not the truth but I had to make some kind of excuse, so I explained the matter in that way.

Q. Then what did the Sheriff say? A. I also said to the Sheriff by way of excuse that I scolded my wife for showing the note to Breckons, then the Sheriff wanted me to make a written statement. Well then I said that I will go home and consult with my wife. At the time the Sheriff showed me the petition from the missionaries I saw about 25 names on it and the Sheriff said that is all the reason he could not allow me to re-open Iwilei.

Q. Did he appear angry at that time that the \$100 loan had leaked out? A. I thought so.

Q. Did anything else occur on that Saturday? A. That is all on Saturday.

Q. What Sunday was it that you saw the Sheriff—the following Sunday? A. Yes, next day.

**Asked Sheriff's Pardon.**

Q. How did you happen to come to the Sheriff's place on Sunday? A. Next day I went to see the Sheriff to ask his pardon for letting the matter of \$100 leak out, and I also said I scolded my wife and asked his pardon again. The Sheriff said he would pardon me at that explanation I made—he was rather pleased, but he said he did not like the attitude of Mr. Breckons in this matter.

Q. Anything else? A. Then I shook hand with him and then came home.

Q. No other talk at that time? A. That is all.

Q. When is the other time that you had a talk with the Sheriff? A. Next time I met him at my house.

Q. At your house? A. Yes.

Q. When was that? A. The following Monday night.

Q. How did he happen to come there, do you know? A. On Monday morning Townsend sent for Chise my wife, but Chise did not like to go and see the Sheriff because she had told everything to Mr. Breckons, then Townsend sent for me, but I refused to go also, then Mr. Townsend came to my house in the afternoon and spoke about the matter.

Q. What did he speak about? A. Townsend said that the Sheriff wanted to see me, but I again refused to go, then in the evening the Sheriff came to my house with Townsend.

Q. Then what occurred at that time? A. He asked me first if Iwilei was open, and I told him he can look and see for himself whether it is open or not.

**MR. KEALOHA.**

Q. The Sheriff asked Isoi if it was open? A. I told him he could look and see, the place was closed at that time, and the Sheriff asked me to

make a statement again about what I told him in regard to the note at his office. He said that he had prepared a statement himself in English and he would have Townsend translate it to me, but I refused to hear it. He said Iwilei must be closed, but if the women who moved to town and opened a place there, he would be lenient.

**MR. MILVERTON.**

Q. What else was said? A. That was about all he said that night.

Q. And when did you next have a talk with him? A. That was the last.

Q. That was the last talk you ever had with him at all? A. That is the very last time I saw him.

Q. Have not seen him since? A. No.

Q. When was the talk you had with him about giving him \$500.00 if he would allow Iwilei to be reopened? A. On the 28th of May.

Q. Was that the first time that you had any talk with him about paying him any money to allow you to have Iwilei reopened? A. No, we did not have any conversation about it before that date, that was the first time.

Q. Where did you have a talk with him about that place? A. At the Sheriff's home.

Q. What time did you go there? A. I think I arrived at the Sheriff's house at 7 o'clock in the evening.

Q. State what occurred there. I went there with Townsend. Well, I asked the Sheriff if he could not do something so that Iwilei could be reopened.

Q. How did you happen to go there, did any one ask you to go there? A. Because women asked me to work for the re-opening of the place.

Q. Did Townsend ever speak to you about it? A. No.

Q. Did Townsend ever suggest that you go to the Sheriff and talk about the re-opening of Iwilei? A. No.

Q. Or did any one connected with the Police Department suggest that to you? A. No.

Q. Now go and state what the conversation was about? A. The Sheriff said he could not evade the law, then there was the effort of the missionaries against him.

Q. Then what else was said? A. I gave the example of San Francisco and some other towns and told him that they were doing the very same thing in those places there and I argued with the Sheriff why they could not do it here. Why, I said, if you will open the place I will work for your own benefit.

Q. Did you say how you would work for his own benefit? A. No I did not explain to him but I told him, I could get a great deal of information and would give it to the Sheriff, that is what I was thinking then.

**How Much Money.**

Q. What else was said on that occasion? A. Then the Sheriff told me to keep everything secret, he said there was no other who knew about the conversation except Townsend, and he asked me how much money I would offer him.

Q. Who asked first? A. The Sheriff asked first.

Q. What did he say about that? A. He asked me how much I would offer him.